

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SS-15
STR-05 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01
OPIC-03 /091 W

-----040576 020858Z /13

R 010848Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8897

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, ASEAN, US

SUBJ: REACTION TO PM'S VISIT TO US; FOLLOW-UP ON US-ASEAN
CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 256640

1. I CALLED ON SENIOR MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE GOH CHOK
TONG ON OCTOBER 31 TO ASK FOR HIS IMPRESSIONS OF PRIME
MINISTER LEE'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES, AND TO PASS ON TO
HIM OUR PROPOSALS FOR INTERIM MECHANISMS TO FOLLOW-UP ON THE
US-ASEAN CONSULTATIONS. GOH, WHO IS A RISING STAR IN THE GOS
HIERARCHY AND WHO ACCOMPANIED THE PM ON HIS
VISIT, SAID THAT THE PM SEEMED REASSURED ABOUT US INTENTIONS
TOWARD SOUTHEAST ASIA AND GENERALLY PLEASED WITH HIS WASHINGTON
DISCUSSIONS. HE CAME BACK FROM THE US AND BRUSSELS, WHERE HE
TALKED WITH SENIOR EEC OFFICIALS, "A MUCH HAPPIER MAN", ALTHOUGH,
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AS GOH NOTED, THE PM "IS NEVER 100 PERCENT HAPPY". I TOLD GOH
THAT WE HAVE NO FURTHER WORD ON PROSPECTS FOR RETAINING TAX
DEFERRAL AND THAT PRESENTING THE TAX BILL TO CONGRESS HAS BEEN
DELAYED. HE REMARKED THAT SINGAPORE HAD DONE AS MUCH AS IT CAN
TO PUT ITS VIEWS BEFORE THE USG AND RECOGNIZED THAT US DOMESTIC
CONCERNS WILL BE HEAVILY WEIGHTED IN THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION
ON THE TAX DEFERRAL PROVISION.

2. GOH ASKED ABOUT THE BILATERAL INVESTMENT AGREEMENT WHICH WAS MENTIONED TO THE PM BY WASHINGTON OFFICIALS AS A POSSIBLE OFFSET TO SINGAPORE'S LOSS OF OPIC INVESTMENT INSURANCE FACILITIES. HE HOPED THAT THE US COULD GIVE THE GOS AN OUTLINE OF WHAT WE HAVE IN MIND. ACTION REQUESTED: HOPE DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE US WITH ITS IDEAS ON WHAT SUCH AN AGREEMENT MIGHT ENCOMPASS.

3. I GAVE GOH THE PAPER ON INTERIM MECHANISMS FOR FOLLOW-UP ON THE US-ASEAN CONSULTATIONS, INCLUDED IN STATE 256440. HE NOTED THAT THE PM HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT APPREHENSIVE ABOUT THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE US IS PREPARED TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH CONCRETE PROPOSALS, AND HE (GOH) WAS PLEASED TO SEE EVIDENCE THAT WE INTEND TO DO SO. I ASKED HIM TO LET US HAVE HIS COMMENTS ON THE PAPER.

4. WITH REGARD TO US-ASEAN PRIVATE SECTOR COOPERATION, WE PASSED ON TO GOH THE SYDNEY APCAC MEETING'S RECOMMENDATION THAT AMCHAMS IN EACH OF THE ASEAN COUNTRIES ESTABLISH LIAISON WITH THE LOCAL CHAMBERS AS WELL AS LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AS A FIRST STEP TOWARD A POSSIBLE US-ASEAN BUSINESS COUNCIL, PENDING FULLER DEVELOPMENT OF THE ASEAN PRIVATE SECTOR'S ORGANIZATION. GOH AGREED THAT A CLOSE PRIVATE SECTOR RELATIONSHIP WOULD BE USEFUL AND IMPORTANT, AND AGREED TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL HERE. HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Format: TEL
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197711108/aaaadpijq.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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